



Sustainable Development

Current issues and challenges

UNCRD

21 May 2012




UNCRD

United Nations Centre for Regional Development

Sustainable Development -1

- Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable – to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

(World Commission on Environment & Development, Our Common Future, 1987)



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Sustainable Development - 2

- Sustainable development:

Constrained by:

- present state of technology
- social organizations on environmental resources
- ability of the biosphere to absorb the effects of human activities

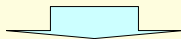
(World Commission on Environment & Development, Our Common Future, 1987)



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Sustainable Development

- Integration of three pillars:
 - Economic development
 - Social development
 - Environmental protection



**Need to reflect the national/local conditions:
National Sustainable Development Strategy
Local Agenda 21**



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Regional Development

A tool:

- to promote **balanced development** to cater for equity and environmental concern;
- to **involve local people and community** for development for their own society and region.



History of UNCRD

- Established in 1971
 - based on the ECOSOC resolution 1582(L)
 - based on the MOU between UN and GOJ
- HQs: Nagoya
 - Africa Office: Nairobi, Kenya
 - LAC Office: Bogota, Colombia



Understandings of RD in ECOSOC Resolution 1582(L)

- RD can be an important instrument for achieving the goals and objectives of International Development Strategy for 2nd UN Development Decade
- RD is being used to achieve more effective integration of social, economic and spatial aspects of development

Resolution 1582(L), 1971



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

ECOSOC Resolution 1582 (L) -expected functions of RD-

- Broader distribution of returns from development among less privileged group
- Popular participation in setting development goals and decision making processes
- Creation of more effective institutional and administrative arrangements
- Better distribution of population and activities through effective urban and rural development
- More environmental considerations



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Activities of UNCRD

- Training and research center in regional development
- Advisory services for governments
- Information exchange
- Assist/cooperate with other organizations

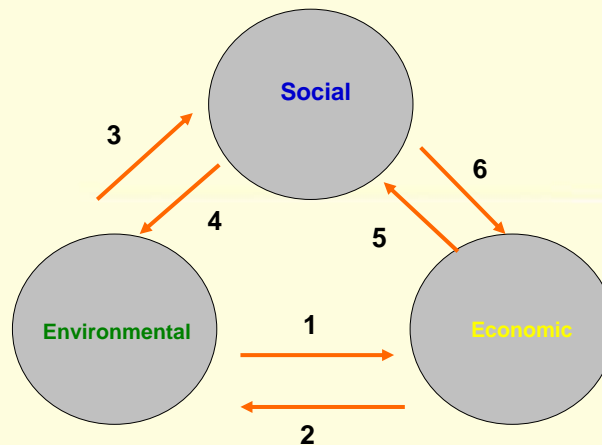


Sustainable Regional Development:

**Economy, Environment
and Social issues...**



Understanding of Interactions between social, economic and environmental factors



Source: OECD (2001)



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Key Interactions

1. From the environment to the economy

- Productive functions of the environment (natural resource and sink functions);
- Economic costs of environmental protection.

2. From economy to the environment

- Pressures on the environmental resources from productive activities;
- Investment in environmental protection;
- Property rights on natural and environmental resources.

3. From the environment to society

- Importance of environmental amenities for human welfare;
- Health and safety hazards from environmental degradation.

4. From society to the environment

- Pressure on environmental resources from consumption pattern;
- Environmental awareness of citizens

5. From the economy to society

- Employment opportunities and living standards;
- Income distribution;
- Resources for the financing of social security programmes;
- Pressure on social and cultural systems leading to disruptions and migrations.

6. From society to the economy

- Quantity and quality of the labour force;
- Importance of social arrangements for market transactions.



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Source: OECD (2001)

However there are critical roadblocks....

- **competing priorities**, in particular between environmental protection & economic development.
- **lack of capacity** to deal with issues.
- **absence of representatives** from some sectors or groups (e.g., youth, women, indigenous people, NGOs) in building consensus among stakeholders.
- **lack of awareness about sustainability among general public.**
- **lack of adequate institutional coordination and absence of integrated institutional framework**



**Interests of International Community
Environment,
but Poverty remains as priority**



1970s

- **UN Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 1972**
- **Oil crisis**
- **Limits to Growth – A report of Club of Rome (1972)** predicted the inevitable collapse of civilization unless economic growth was halted immediately
- **Establishment of UNEP, US-EPA**
- **Creation of national environmental agencies / legislations / regulations started**
- **Environment becomes major issue on the international level**
- **“Poverty is the worst form of pollution” (Indira Gandhi)**



1980s

- **Breakdown of Eastern Bloc & end of bipolar world**
- **“Increasing wealth” in the North vs “the lost decade” in the South (eg. Debt crisis)**
- **Catastrophic events (Bhopal gas tragedy, Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, Chernobyl nuclear accident etc.)**
- **Emergence of Mega-cities**
- **New issues (climate change, biodiversity, discovery of ozone hole, etc.)**
- **Formation of World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) & its final report “Our Common Future”(1987)**
- **End of Cold War, Marta Summit , Dec. 1989 (Mr. Gorbachev & Mr. Bush)**



1990s Major Conferences and Summits

- Children (1990)
- Education for All (1990, 2000)
- Least Developed Countries (1990, 2001)
- Food Security (1992, 1996)
- Sustainable Development (1992, 2002)
- Human Rights (1993, 2001)
- Population and Development (1994)
- Small Island Developing States (1994, 2005)
- Natural Disaster Reduction (1994, 2005)
- Advancement of Women (1995, 2005)
- Social Development (1995)
- Human Settlements (1996, 2001)
- Youth (1998)
- Millennium Summit (2000)
- Financing for Development (2002)
- Ageing (2002)
- Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (2003)
- Information Society (2003, 2005)
- 2005 World Summit (2005)



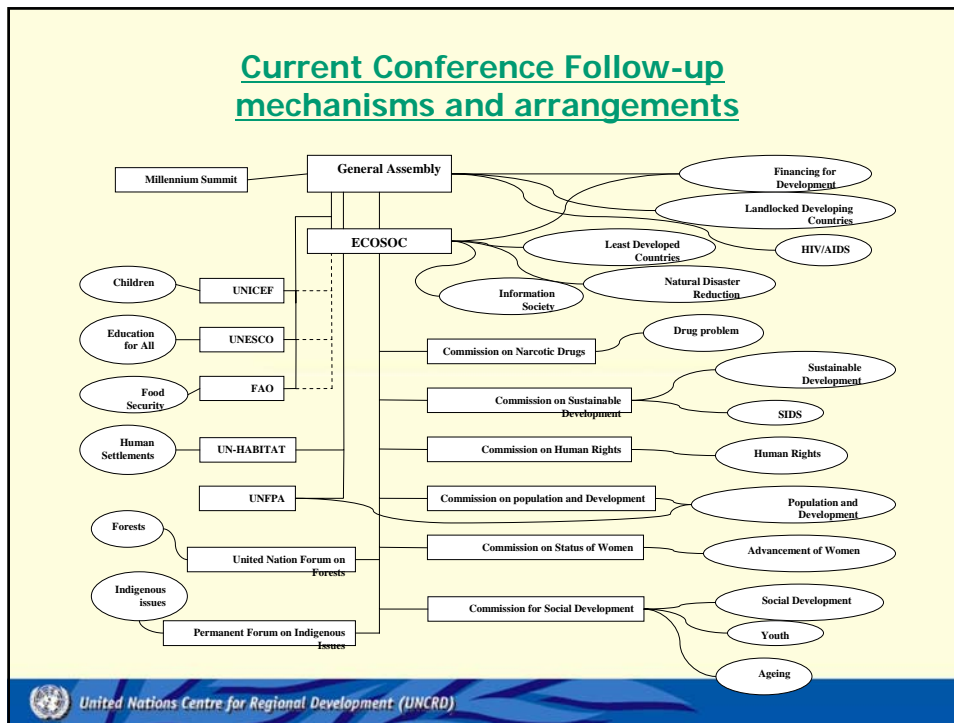
United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

1990s

- **1992: Rio Summit (UNCED)** – addressed “environment” and “development” together and brought them to top political agenda of governments
 - **Agenda 21**: guideline/action program for sustainable development into 21st century
- Establishment of UN-CSD
- Rio Conventions: UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD
- Adoption at UNFCCC, **Kyoto Protocol (1997)**,



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)



2000s~

- **Millennium Summit (2000)**
 - Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- **WSSD, Johannesburg (2002)**
 - Johannesburg Plan of Action (JPOI)
- **Catastrophic natural disasters (Pakistan earthquake (2003), Indian Ocean Tsunami(2004), China earthquake (2007), Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami(2011), Fukushima Nuclear Accident, etc.)**

WSSD Plan of Implementation

Coverage of areas:

- Poverty eradication;**
- Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production;**
- Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development;**
- Health and sustainable development;**
- Means of Implementation**



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns – Chapter III

- Promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production**
- Cleaner production and eco-efficiency**
- Corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability**



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns – Chapter III continued

- ❑ Energy for sustainable development and improvement of energy efficiency
- ❑ **Integrated approach for transport services and systems**
- ❑ Sound management of chemicals
- ❑ **Waste prevention, minimization, reuse and recycling**



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



1
ERADICATE
EXTREME POVERTY
AND HUNGER



2
ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL
PRIMARY EDUCATION



3
PROMOTE GENDER
EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER WOMEN



4
REDUCE
CHILD MORTALITY



5
IMPROVE MATERNAL
HEALTH



6
COMBAT HIV/AIDS,
MALARIA AND OTHER
DISEASES



7
ENSURE
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY



8
GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP FOR
DEVELOPMENT



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

UN Millennium Development Goals: 2015

- Poverty: Half between 1990 and 2015
- Primary school enrolment: 100%
- Gender disparities in primary/secondary education: 100% elimination
- Infant mortality: 2/3 reduction from 1990 to 2015
- Maternal mortality: 3/4 reduction women dying at child birth
- Health service: Halt & begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, & other major diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability: Reversal by 2015, half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water
- Develop Global partnership for development: trade, finance, and technology for development & poverty reduction



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

2010 MDG SUMMIT 20-22 September 2010



UN SUMMIT • 20-22 September 2010 • New York
High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010

- **Significant progress in the last decade.**
- **MDGs demonstrated that setting bold, collective goals for fight against poverty yields results.**
- **However, achievements are fragile and uneven.**
 - **The global financial and economic crisis took a heavy toll on jobs and income**
 - **Slow down in ODA.**

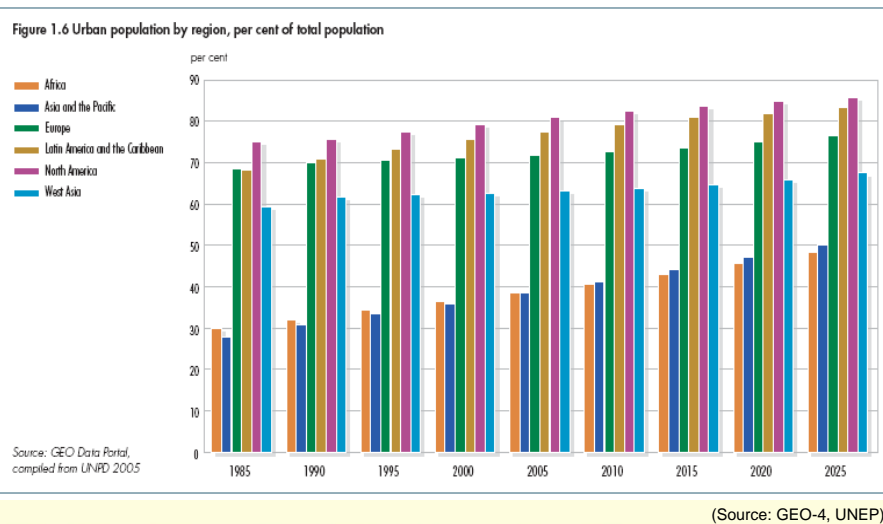


Emerging issues; Urbanization

Transport, Waste,



Growing urbanization...



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Regional Development in Urban Area vs Rural Area



- Sustainable Regional Development**
- Urban and Rural Linkage
 - Sustainable Cities
 - Food Security
 - Water, etc.



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Different Region, Different Conditions.....



SE Asia and Pacific

- Difference of Economic Conditions
 - Between Old-ASEAN, New-ASEAN, Island countries
- Sub Regional Activities
 - Greater Mekong Sub-regional (GMS) activities within the ASEAN FTA
- Economic disparity between urban and rural area (Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia)
- Weak urban management including traffic, slum management, waste, etc.



South Asia

- Half of world poverty (less than \$1/day) = Eradication of Poverty
- Diversified society and culture (Religion, people, language), growing population
- Lack of fundamental social infrastructure, and environmental problems,
- Flood (Bangladesh) = Disaster management
- Fragile political security = Peace development, conflict



Central and E-Europe

- Different level of development for market based economy
- Post conflict problems (former Yugoslavia)
- Diversified social conditions (religion, people)
- EU accreditation



LAC

- Disparity (economic, regional) and security
- Insufficient investment for social infrastructure
- Conventional environmental problems
- Poverty in big cities (Brazil, Chile) =
Management of cities
- Rich mineral resources and tropical forest =
Good management of resources
- Existence of interregional cooperation



Africa

- Monoculture economy based on agriculture products, mineral resources = Fragile for global environmental impact (drought, climate change), international commodity market
- Weak Governance
- Many LDCs (34 out of 48), poverty (40%, less than 1\$/day)
- NEPAD: Eradication of poverty through ownership, self reliance, capacity development
- TICAD: Capacity development, S-S cooperation, social development, poverty eradication through economic development, good governance



Needs **Regional Approach,
based on the understandings of
different conditions**



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

**Regional Development
in 21st Century.....**



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

RD in 21st Century

- New issues:
 - ❖ Further globalization of the economy, esp. with IT
 - ❖ Further expansion of disparity
 - ❖ Rapid urbanization
 - ❖ Global scale environmental problems, including global warming and frequent extreme weather events
- RD in 21st Century should be considered in this context;
ECOSOC Resolution 1582(L)
+ Globalization, Population & Urbanization, Global Environmental Problems, Wise use of limited resources.



Rio+20: The Future We Want 20-22 June 2012

- Conference Themes:
 - Green economy in the in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
 - Institutional framework for sustainable development
- Expected outcome:
Focused political document



